

## **Frederick County Roads Board Meeting Minutes For Monday, March 6, 2023**

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Present were Road Board Members: Barbara Wyatt, Jim Bonneville, Steve Haller, Councilperson Mason Carter

Also present were County staff: Robert Shen, P.E., Deputy Director, David Ennis, P.E., Department Head, Department of Highway Operations, Mike Ramsburg, Superintendent, Department of Highway Operations, and Amanda Radcliffe, P.E., Chief of Office of Project Management

*(Official minutes of the Roads Board meetings are kept on file in the Department of Engineering and Construction Management. To view agendas, approved meeting minutes and video recorded Roads Board meetings, visit the County's website at [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/roadsboard](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/roadsboard))*

### **I. CALL TO ORDER (Chairperson)**

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Introduction of Roads Board Members and county staff members were completed by Ms. Wyatt and Mr. Shen.

### **II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- A. Russell Rice- Buck Lantz Road- Wanted to make a note to the Board and Staff that issues are taken seriously and that he appreciates that. There are new speed limit signs that are now up that were not there before, the crews have been out trimming the trees, and there is also an increased police presence. Traffic does seem a little better.
  - i. Everything seems to be waiting on the Rustic Road Program. How are homeowners to know this is being done? Mr. Rice stated he knew nothing about this program and doesn't think it was handled correctly.
  - ii. Mr. Rice received the report about the road and agrees 100%. Made a suggestion that in the fall when the road is regraded, not to regrade it. The road is firm from the summer and then when the work is done it makes it soft again for winter and sloppy. Just address the problem areas.
  - iii. Regarding the bridge survey, Mr. Rice stated that there were around 158 cars that traveled across it. He feels that that number is doubled if not tripled on the upper stone section of the road.
  - iv. Ms. Wyatt responded that this matter was an agenda item and will be discussed further. She also stated that regarding the report that Mr. Rice was referring to from the committee appointed by Executive Gardner and not knowing anything about it, the report was submitted last year and due to change in administration it is basically sitting there and nothing has been acted on. Directed Mr. Rice that if he would like to see that report to contact the Planning Department. Mr. Rice stated he has read it.
- B. Susan Hanson: Stated she would like to hold her comments until the end.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Approval of minutes of December 5, 2022

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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B. Buck Lantz Road: (Presented by Ms. Radcliffe)- Staff visited the site in December after the Roads Board Meeting. Staff was able to install some signs, reached out to the Sheriffs Department and took in as much data as possible like the vehicle trip counts. Analyzed the road. Looked at what can and cannot be done. Look at the feasibility of passing areas. Unfortunately, there is not much that can be done while we are in this lull between the Rural Roads moving over to Rustic Roads and waiting for that committee to be formed. Highway Operations will continue following the Divisions procedure for Rural Roads in terms of maintenance.

- i. Ms. Wyatt asked if there any comments from staff on Mr. Rice's objection to timing of maintenance activities with Mr. Bonneville agreeing on Mr. Rice's observations on Fall maintenance activities.
  - Mike Ramsburg stated that regarding the maintenance of the gravel roads, it is our policy and long term been our practice to reprofile and compact the gravel roads a minimum of twice a year in the spring and the fall.
  - Mr. Bonneville- asked about snowplows and if that would have any bearing on not having to regrade the road in the fall or spring. Mr. Ramsburg stated he mentioned once in spring and once in the fall as a typical year with maintenance as needed in the summer. Given that this winter has been mild, he expects to only do spot grading as needed.
  - An additional question was asked if the calcium chloride is it applied every year? Mr. Ramsburg stated that there were several years where due to budget cuts it was not applied, but it has been at least 6 to 8 years where it has been applied annually.
  - Mr. Bonneville stated that in the couple years were heavy snow fell, the snowplows caused a little more damage to the road than the traffic has. Mr. Ramsburg stated that the experience of the plow driver makes a difference as well.
  - Ms. Wyatt stated that she drove down Buck Lantz Road and thought it was beautiful. Thanking Staff for everything they have done to address concerns.

C. Traffic in Kingsbrook: (Presented by Amanda Radcliffe)- Staff reviewed crash data, took speed data, reviewed traffic counts, did pedestrian observations. Want to look at this from a corridor type approach from Ballenger Creek Pike to New Design

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Road/Corporate Drive. Overall it is a minor arterial which means a lot of the mechanism we would like to recommend for reducing speed do not apply to that type of roadway. Going to look at having a design consultant come on board and give them a task to analyze it to get a comprehensive approach to how to deal with all these intersections and this corridor and see what they come up with. We did observe a number of pedestrians in the morning with the schools and they are more localized in where they are crossing. It will be beneficial to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> party analyze and come up with other solutions that have been used in other jurisdictions.

- i. Ms. Wyatt asked if the person who raised the point know how much has been done to at least study the situation? Ms. Radcliffe stated that they are aware of what has been going on.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Board Vacancies – Ms. Radcliffe stated that currently they are out and being advertised for all 5 districts. Overall persons that have a desire to serve have to be residents and registered voters in Frederick County and if you are interested to send a letter of interest and current resume to Joyce Grossnickle and the deadline is March 17<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.
  - i. Ms. Wyatt stated that when Joyce is reviewing those applications, she will be able to determine what District they fall in but if an applicant wants to know what district they are in they should be able to check the map on the DPW page. Ms. Radcliffe stated the map is on the Roads Board website.
- B. Christopher Crossing- Mr. Carter stated that there is work being done in that area. There are speed displays set. Have you gotten any word from residents on whether that has slowed drivers down?
  - i. Ms. Radcliffe stated that we have not heard anything but they did hear some feedback regarding the 4 way stop sign. Mr. Shen was asked if the speed displays record the data. Mr. Shen replied yes. Generally, after installation, the boxes show the speed, the second part of the installation the box goes dark, collects the data and if there is any sort of speeding issue, that information is shared with the Sheriff's Office so they can increase patrols in a certain time frame when cars are speeding.

**V. HIGHWAY OPERATIONS UPDATES: (Presented by Mr. Ramsburg)**

- A. **Winter Maintenance-** The winter weather has been very mild and mostly uneventful. We only had one full call out (all staff and contractors) that was on December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> as well as a few smaller events the last week of December. In total we used 3,874 tons of salt (\$83.39 per ton), 80 tons of anti-skid & 1,700 gallons of brine. The light winter was timely, as we had to fill the new salt barn in Urbana, it holds 10,000 tons. It is 3x the size of the 30-year old dome it replaced. The light winter has allowed us to catch up on tree trimming, drainage work and normal maintenance that has been reduced the past couple years due to staff vacancies.
- B. **Summer Projects-**
- 3 Sites to receive additional pavement markings on March 13<sup>th</sup>:
    - Gas House Pike, east of the Crickenberger/Central Church intersection was identified as a “high crash area”. Install rumble strips and additional signage.
    - Christopher Crossing/Walter Martz/Jordan Valley Way. New stop signs were installed to create an all way stop. The stop bars will be installed.
    - Farmbrook Dr @ Charstone Ct, install a new pedestrian cross walk
  - Replace deck & repair abutments - small bridge on Highland School Road
  - Mt Tabor Road near Rt 40A - slope stabilization
  - ~~Milt Summers~~ Station Road - slope stabilization
  - Sumantown Road - replace 48” pipe & headwalls
  - Reels Mill Road - replace several smaller pipes & headwalls
  - Hollow Road - replace several smaller pipes & headwalls
  - Pleasant Walk Road - replace several smaller pipes & headwalls
  - Roadside mowing will start the second week of April
  - Gravel Roads will be profiled & compacted in April, pending the weather
  - Dust preventative will be applied to gravel roads in May
  - Several of the wooden deck bridges will be treated, with a wood preservative (about 9 of 27)
  - Bethel Road – replace pipes & headwalls, 25 locations. The road will be closed in sections. With all road closures, DFRS and BOE are notified. More information is available on the FCG Website-DPW-Road Closures.
  - We will be working a 4 ten-hour day schedule again this summer, Monday thru Thursday. With additional work on Friday, if needed. As well as emergency response
    - Mr. Haller asked about the money that has been saved from winter snow removal how is that being handled? Mr. Ramsburg stated in different ways. A list is maintained of equipment that would make the department more efficient and the money would go back into the County general fund.
    - With the pipe replacements are the roads going to be completely closed or only in the segments where the pipes are being replaced. Mr. Ramsburg stated that when replacing a pipe, it will be the entire road.
  - Ms. Wyatt asked a question regarding the bridge deck replacements. Are all the 27 wood decks on metal truss bridges? Mr. Ramsburg replied no. The one on Highland School Road the deck itself is 20 ft by 21 ft and has guardrails on each side, it just has metal I-beams underneath that wooden deck.

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Ms. Wyatt asked if Ms. Hanson would like to make her comments at this time. Ms. Hanson stated she would wait until next time.

**VI. ROADS BOARD ISSUES-** Mr. Haller stated he would like to talk about Buck Lantz Road. He stated he traveled that road after the last meeting and he traveled that roadway this evening and you could immediately notice the tree trimming and signs. The road is so narrow and it will be interesting to see at some point how that is dealt with the new Rustic Roads board coming in. Ms. Wyatt stated that it was always anticipated that there would public debate.

- i. It was also asked if the County has easements along Buck Lantz Road. The response was either none or very little.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 pm\_. The next meeting will be held, June 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Winchester Room, 2nd Floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick